

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A thermoplastic resin coloring agent comprising: a surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide (A) formed by coating a non-acicular  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.06  $\mu\text{m}$  and an aspect ratio of 0.2 to 1.0 with a polyhydric alcohol and an organopolysiloxane, and an oxycarboxylic acid metal salt (B1) as a dispersing agent (B).

Claim 2 (Original): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 1, wherein the oxycarboxylic acid metal salt (B1) is a 12-hydroxystearic acid metal salt.

Claim 3 (Original): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 2, wherein the 12-hydroxystearic acid metal salt is calcium 12-hydroxystearate.

Claim 4 (Original): A thermoplastic resin coloring agent comprising a surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide (A) formed by coating a non-acicular  $\alpha$ -ferric having an average particle size of 0.01 to 0.06  $\mu\text{m}$  and an aspect ratio of 0.2 to 1.0 with a polyhydric alcohol and an organopolysiloxane, and a higher fatty acid metal salt (B2) as a dispersing agent (B).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the polyhydric alcohol and the organopolysiloxane are each 0.01 to 10 wt % relative to the entirety of the surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric (A).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is trimethylolpropane or trimethylolethane.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the organopolysiloxane is dimethyl polysiloxane or methyl hydrogen polysiloxane.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein 40 to 150 parts by weight of the dispersing agent (B) is added to 100 parts by weight of the surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide (A).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the thermoplastic resin coloring agent comprises a methine-based dye (C).

Claim 10 (Original): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 9, wherein the methine-based dye (C) is C.I. No. Solvent Brown 53.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic resin composition obtained by mixing the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~, a methine-based dye (C), and a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 12 (Original): The thermoplastic resin composition according to Claim 11, wherein the methine-based dye (C) is C.I. No. Solvent Brown 53.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A thermoplastic resin composition obtained by mixing the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~, and a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin composition according to ~~any one of Claims 11 to 13~~, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyester resin.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The thermoplastic resin composition according to ~~any one of Claims 11 to 14~~, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a microbially disintegrable resin.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A molding obtained by using the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A molding obtained by using the thermoplastic resin composition according to ~~any one of Claims 11 to 15~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A molding formed by coating the surface of the molding according to ~~either Claims 16 or 17~~ with a carbon film.

Claim 19 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, wherein the polyhydric alcohol and the organopolysiloxane are each 0.01 to 10 wt % relative to the entirety of the surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide (A).

Claim 20 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is trimethylolpropane or trimethylolethane.

Claim 21 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, wherein the organopolysiloxane is dimethyl polysiloxane or methyl hydrogen polysiloxane.

Claim 22 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, wherein 40 to 150 parts by weight of the dispersing agent (B) is added to 100 parts by weight of the surface-treated  $\alpha$ -ferric oxide (A).

Claim 23 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, wherein the thermoplastic resin coloring agent comprises a methine-based dye (C).

Claim 24 (New): The thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 23, wherein the methine-based dye (C) is C.I. No. Solvent Brown 53.

Claim 25 (New): A thermoplastic resin composition obtained by mixing the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, a methine-based dye (C), and a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 26 (New): The thermoplastic resin composition according to Claim 25, wherein the methine-based dye (C) is C.I. No. Solvent Brown 53.

Claim 27 (New): A thermoplastic resin composition obtained by mixing the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4, and a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 28 (New): The thermoplastic resin composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyester resin.

Claim 29 (New): The thermoplastic resin composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a microbially disintegrable resin.

Claim 30 (New): A molding obtained by using the thermoplastic resin coloring agent according to Claim 4.

Claim 31 (New): A molding obtained by using the thermoplastic resin composition according to Claim 25.

Claim 32 (New): A molding formed by coating the surface of the molding according to Claim 30 with a carbon film.